

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10161 181134Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-05 NSC-05 OPR-02 PA-01
PRS-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 SSO-00 USSS-00 USIE-00
/049 W

-----081128 181139Z /17

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1411

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP, BE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS

REF: STATE 195017

1. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS ACCEPTS WITH PLEASURE THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 8. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE VISIT WILL INCLUDE A THIRTY-MINUTE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND LUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE ACCEPTS THE INVITATION TO STAY AT BLAIR HOUSE.

2. MRS. TINDEMANS WILL REPEAT WILL ACCOMPANY THE PRIME MINISTER. IN THIS CONNECTION THE PRIME MINISTER IS EAGER TO MAKE THE WHITE HOUSE LUNCH A SUBSTANTIVE AFFAIR - IN EFFECT A CONTINUATION OF HIS INITIAL DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT, PREFERABLY WITHOUT SPOUSES SINCE THIS WOULD MAKE THE EVENT AT LEAST PARTLY SOCIAL.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER UNDERSTANDS THAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE ABSENT. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AND OTHER DOS OFFICIALS SEPTEMBER 9.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE JOINT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OUT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE - AUGUST 19, IF
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POSSIBLE - SINCE GOB IS COMMITTED TO THE LOCAL PRESS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA TO GIVE THEM AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE TO PLAN STAFFING THE TRIP. WE SAID WE WOULD MAKE KNOWN THE URGENCY.

5. WE AGREED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THAT THE MAIN LINE OF COMMUNICATION ON DEVELOPING DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM REMAINS THROUGH THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THE PM

EXPECTS IN DUE COURSE TO HAVE IN HAND A DETAILED SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A PROGRAM FOR MRS. TINDEMANS. THE PM WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, BY HIS OWN CHEF DE CABINET JAN GRAULS AND BY SIMONET'S CHEF DE CABINET ALFRED CAHEN. THESE WILL BE THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE BELGIAN OFFICIALS TRAVELING FROM BRUSSELS WITH TINDEMANS. COMMENT: WE CONVEYED THE INVITATION PERSONALLY TO GRAULS, WHO CHECKED IT OUT IN DETAIL BY TELEPHONE IN OUR PRESENCE WITH TINDEMANS, WHO IS VACATIONING ON THE SEASIDE. THE PM WAS MUCH RELIEVED AND GRATEFUL THAT THE VISIT HAS BEEN UPGRADED TO "OFFICIAL." HE ASKED GRAULS TO EXPLAIN THAT, HE IS PERSONALLY UNCONCERNED BY THE LABEL THE VISIT CARRIES, BUT, AS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, HE IS OBLIGED TO KEEP THE STATUS AND PRESTIGE OF EC IN MIND. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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